'73

women in film

Hollywood and beyond.

The Scarlet Empress - December 6

Pomp and pageantry carry Marlene Dietrich from Germany as a princess to the Russian court to become Catherine the Great. She is to wed the Grand Duke, a grinning half-wit in a powdered wig, whom she refuses to live with, and so soon becomes emensely popular with the Army and ministers. This surreal creation of director Joseph von Sternberg, with its bizarre montage, tells the tale of Russian barbarity in a time of torture chambers, decapitations, burning at the stake, and giant bells made with human clappers.

Also on the bill will be John Gruenberger's "Visage." The film was most recently seen at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Pygmalion - December 13

Despite 1964's "My Fair Lady", this straight version of Bernard Shaw's play, directed by Anthony Asquith and Leslie Howard, remains the most satisfying and perfectly cast: Howard as Higgins, Wendy Hiller as Eliza, Scott Sun Sunderland as Pickering and Wilfrid Lawson as Dolittle. Produced by Gabriel Pascal, photographed by Harry Stradling, with the music by Arthur Honegger, it remains one of the cinema's most civilized comedies.

Also on the program will be Marianne Dolan's "Damages."

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes - December 20

Directed by Howard Hawks; based on the musical comedy by Joseph Fields and Anita Loos; two additional songs by Hoagy Carmichael. Two showgirls, a blonde (Marilyn Monroe) and a brunette (Jane Russell), embark for France on the luxurious Ile de France seeking rich husbands, or at any rate diamonds which "are a girl's best friend." The pursuit of millionaires and rocks take them into a Parisian police court but the two siren's resources are ample for any occasion.

Also the best of Betty Boop.

Cat Ballou - December 27

Anyone who was a bona-fide film-goer in 1965 saw "Cat Ballou" at least once. And anyone who has not seen it likely has heard about it from someone who has and will jump at another chance to experience the tale of Catherine Ballou and her outlaw band consisting of a coward, a preacher who drinks and shoots with the best of them, an Indian who denies he is Hebrew, and a professional gun-slinger whose accuracy depends upon the amount of whiskey consumed prior to the shoot-out. The superb cast performances include Jane Fonda as "Cat", Lee Marvin's award-winning double-role, and the memorable swan-song apperance of Nat King Cole just before his death.

Also on the bill will be "OVA Express" by Constance Comment, "Angel Blue Sweet Wings" by Chick Strand and "Cafeteria" by Judith Wardwell.

December at the Canyon Cinematheque!

San Francisco Art Institute

800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco • 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings • For further information call 332-1514 before 5 p.m.